

**AGENDA:** October 8, 2002

**4.6**

**CATEGORY:** Consent

**DEPT.:** Public Works

**TITLE:** Caltrain Express Train Service

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CALTRAIN "BABY BULLET" EXPRESS SERVICE AND ENCOURAGE THE PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS BOARD TO INCLUDE THE DOWNTOWN MOUNTAIN VIEW TRANSIT CENTER AS ONE OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY STOPS.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.

### **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

The Caltrain Express or "Baby Bullet" service will provide express train service along the peninsula between San Jose and San Francisco. Riders will be able to travel from San Jose to San Francisco in approximately one hour, as opposed to the ninety minutes presently required. To facilitate this service, the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) has begun a construction project to add a third set of tracks in selected locations. This improvement, along with fewer station stops and upgrades to the signal system, will allow express trains to be routed around slower local service trains and to skip stations, reducing travel times. Construction should be complete in two years with the Express service beginning at that time.

Although the construction project is underway, the JPB has not determined which stations will be served. The JPB is proposing a total of four stops, excluding San Jose and San Francisco, with two in Santa Clara County and two in San Mateo County. The JPB will be conducting a ridership survey to help determine which stops will be most appropriate. The last ridership survey revealed Mountain View tied with Palo Alto as the third busiest stop behind San Francisco and San Jose.

Mountain View will be a logical stop in Santa Clara County as the Downtown Mountain View Transit Center is a true multi-modal transit hub offering employer shuttle bus, bus, bicycle, light rail and heavy commuter rail services. Other factors, which suggest Mountain View would be an appropriate stop are:

- The station is in close proximity to several large transit-oriented housing and business developments.
- The station is near several major roadways, including: El Camino Real, Central Expressway, Evelyn Avenue, Route 85 and U.S. 101.
- The new Centennial Plaza station building will include valuable amenities such as a covered passenger waiting area, secure bicycle storage, an ATM machine and pushcart vendors supplying drinks and sundries.
- There is a large 300-space parking lot with potential to double capacity.

If Mountain View is selected, commuters and residents, who do not already use the service, may consider Caltrain as a commute alternative, increasing ridership and reducing air pollution and traffic congestion. Also, employers, property owners and residents may consider this additional service an asset to the community.

To promote Mountain View as a stop, staff is proposing a resolution supporting this service and expressing interest in securing a stop at the downtown station. The draft of this resolution is included as Attachment 1. City staff will also work with the JPB and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) staff to help secure a stop at the Transit Center.

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**PUBLIC NOTICING**—Agenda posting.

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Attachment: 1. Resolution